Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 29 Dec 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 30 Dec 2021

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 28 Dec 2021 at 11:25

Confidence: High confidence for a mild southwesterly airstream over the coming days with gales at times and a lot of low cloud at times around the fell tops, also feeling very mild for the New Year period. Lower confidence in forecasting details of rainfall amounts and timing of outbreaks of rain.

Headline for Wednesday 29 Dec 2021: Southerly gales or severe gales, cloudy with heavy rain for a time, turning milder.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 29 Dec 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Cloudy	Dull	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
<05%	<05%	20%	80%	80%	20%	10%	10%

Forecast for Wednesday 29 Dec 2021

Weather: Clouding over from the early hours as frontal rain approaches the Lake District in the morning. Rain soon spreading east across the Lake District after daybreak, rain will be heavy for a time and accompanied by widespread gales making for quite miserable conditions for a time. Rain will clean east after lunch and it will begin to brighten up during the afternoon, some clearer spells are possible by late afternoon. Further clear spells will develop during the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 40% during the morning associated with the rain, improving to 80% by late afternoon as cloud clears after the rain.

Visibility: Visibility turning quite poor soon after daybreak as rain spreads across the area. General visibility will improve during the afternoon becoming very good. Low cloud will be broken during the morning from 400m and above gradually lifting and breaking during the afternoon, some patches of cloud around 600-700m by mid afternoon but otherwise becoming clear.

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Forecast for Wednesday 29 Dec 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	11/14 S	15/19 S	24/32 SE	40/50 SE	44/56 S	39/52 W	31/40 SW	31/41 SW	27/36 SW
600	8/11 S	15/21 S	26/37 SE	33/46 SE	34/46 SW	31/45 W	25/35 SW	24/36 SW	23/33 SW
300	3/8 S	7/16 S	11/27 SE	13/35 SE	13/36 S	13/36 W	10/29 SW	11/29 SW	10/27 SW
Valley	2/7 SE	4/12 SE	9/21 SE	11/28 SE	15/35 SW	13/30 SW	11/25 SW	12/27 SW	11/23 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-3	1/-4	2/-4	3/-5	5/-1	4/-2	4/-3	3/-3	4/-2
600	3/-0	3/-2	3/-4	3/-4	7/1	6/1	6/0	5/-0	6/1
300	4/3	4/2	4/1	6/2	8/5	9/6	8/5	7/4	7/4
Valley	6/4	6/4	6/3	7/4	10/7	10/8	9/7	9/7	9/6
Freezing Level*	1100m	1100m	1300m	2500m	2200m	1600m	1500m	1500m	1600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Significant wind chill during the morning in gales or severe gales and rain, milder air will spread across the area during the afternoon with winds easing slightly but still feeling cool until winds ease significantly overnight.

Forecast for Thursday 30 Dec 2021

Weather: Outbreaks of rain are expected during the morning especially around southwestern fells. It will become drier and brighter for more northeasterly fells. Further outbreaks of rain will spread north during the evening. A lot of lower cloud expected in the milder airstream.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 20-30mph with gusts 30-35mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 40-50% a lot of the lower cloud will be confined to southerly fells with some clear tops around the north of the National Park. It will be hard to define the clearest time of day but perhaps the afternoon.

Visibility: Moderate or poor in early outbreaks of rain, becoming mainly good during the afternoon especially in the north. Cloud bases will be broken around 400m, perhaps more scattered around 500m in the north.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 11 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 6 Celsius.
Freezing level: Above the summits.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Full report:

The milder temperatures (it was plus 2 degrees on the summit around midday) has thawed the soft snow that fell early on Boxing Day leaving just older snow that has been around for some weeks now. These old snow patches are located above 750m in sheltered spots and hollows and on east and north facing aspects. This old snow has been hard and icy (some still is) and this, combined with its aspect and altitude, makes it resistant to the thaw. That said, such patches were softening and, in some cases, were non-weight baring (unless I've just had too much food recently!). However, most of the remaining snow does not obstruct paths leaving the majority of the Lakeland fells and paths clear of snow up to and including summit level. However, extreme care needs to be taken where paths are covered – especially on steep ground. For example on the, so called, "easy" route up Helvellyn from Swirrls there is a bank of avoidable (but it requires a scramble) steep snow near Browncove Crags. There are deep steps cut into it, but such sections require care – especially in descent.

Conversely, both Striding and Swirral Edges could be climbed without setting foot on snow, although there is a patch of avoidable snow on the path guarding Striding's exit. The main hazard along these routes today was simply the bare wet rock being greasy and slippery – something familiar to most fell walkers!

Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill (what the temperature feels like) remains well below freezing so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are essential for anyone going out onto the high fells – as those not carrying extra layers soon discovered whenever they stopped and quickly became cold.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Issued at: 1125 on Tue 28 Dec 2021

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